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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/LIBERIA: DUTCH OFFER DEBT RELIEF

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On June 12, poloff delivered reftel points to Frits van Bruggen, Senior Policy Officer in the Subsaharan Africa Department of the Dutch MFA. Van Bruggen responded that the Netherlands will not participate in the Berlin forum on Liberia and does not provide direct development assistance to Liberia, as it is not one of the Netherlands' "partner" countries. However, the Dutch do provide substantial support to UNICEF and the Peacebuilding Fund, which may provide assistance to Liberia. In addition, the Dutch supported Liberia's position at the recent Paris Club negotiations and will discharge all Liberian debts once that nation "has reached the HIPC completion point in 2010 and met all conditions."  
Gallagher